

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16881 200219Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4518
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16881

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET JOURNALIST DESCRIBES MOSCOW METRO
BOMBERS

1. WE ARE INFORMED THAT IN RESPONSE TO A RECENT
INQUIRY SOVIET JOURNALIST VICTOR LOUIS SAID THAT
INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR METRO BOMBINGS WERE SIMPLE
ARMENIAN PEASANT TYPES WITH VERY LIMITED POLITICAL
AWARENESS. HE LIKENED THEIR CAUSE AND APPROACH TO
THAT OF MOLUCCAN TERRORISTS IN HOLLAND: COMPLETELY
HOPELESS. ALTHOUGH LOUIS DID NOT SPECIFY NUMBER
INVOLVED, HE INDICATED THAT SEVERAL ARMENIANS HAD
BEEN ARRESTED. HE STATED THAT INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN
MOVED FROM YEREVAN TO MOSCOW TO AVOID AROUSING LOCAL
EMOTIONS AND THAT TRIAL WOULD BE HELD HERE. WITH AN
AIR OF RESIGNATION, HE SAID A DEATH SENTENCE WAS
OBVIOUSLY MANDATORY, "BUT WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH
THESE PEOPLE?" TO ILLUSTRATE DANGER OF ARMENIAN
NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS, LOUIS SAID THAT SOVIET
TROOPS HAD TO BE SENT TO THE REPUBLIC AT TIME OF THE
SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH MASSACRE TO PREVENT
ARMENIANS FROM MARCHING ON TURKEY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 16881 200219Z

2. WE REPORT LOUIS' REMARKS AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST,
ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE, AS READERS NO DOUBT ALSO ARE
THAT HE IS NOT ABOVE PASSING DISINFORMATION. MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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